

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINGAP 03840 030516Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 NEA-10 EUR-12 AF-10
ACDA-07 DHA-05 EB-08 AID-05 /119 W
-----081001 032101Z /73

R 030400Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8465

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3840

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SN

SUBJ: PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 205678, (B) SINGAPORE 3149

1. EMBASSY MUCH APPRECIATES IO'S EXCEPTIONALLY USEFUL INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS. WE HAVE GONE OVER MOST OF TALKING POINTS (LEAVING OUT PRINCIPALLY THOSE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED DURING RECENT WELLS/PETREE VISIT.) WITH MFA OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OF UN AFFAIRS. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT MFA HAS ONLY TWO OFFICERS WORKING ON UN AFFAIRS IN SINGAPORE, ONE OF WHOM (MICHAEL CHEOK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL SECTION) ALSO IS IN CHARGE OF NON-UN (AND NON-ASEAN) MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS. DESK OFFICER FOR UN AFFAIRS IS TAN GIM KHENG. CHEOK IS FIRST TO ADMIT THAT SUCH THIN STAFFING LEAVES LARGE AREAS OF UN AFFAIRS UNCOVERED, EVEN SUPERFICIALLY. EVEN SO, EMBOFF FOUND THEM REMARKABLY WELL INFORMED ABOUT CENTRAL UN ISSUES; THIS MUST LARGELY BE ATTRIBUTED TO GOS'S SMALL BUT HIGHLY COMPETENT MISSION IN NEW YORK. AS DESCRIBED REFTTEL B, GOS HAS IN EFFECT LOCATED ITS MAIN MULTILATERAL STAFF IN NEW YORK. IT HAS CONFIDENCE IN THEM AND NORMALLY APPROVES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SINGAP 03840 030516Z

WITHOUT CHANGE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS CONAINED IN THEIR BRIEFING PAPERS, WHICH ARE SENT TO SINGAPORE FOR REVIEW WHEN TIME PERMITS. U.S. INFLUENCE CAN BE EXERTED MOST DIRECTLY IN NEW YORK, WHERE GOS POLICY DECISIONS ARE EFFECTIVELY TAKEN, ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HERE CAN USEFULLY WEIGH IN ON ISSUES OF MORE THAN USUAL IMPORTANCE THAT COULD BE EXPECTED TO ATTRACT INTEREST OF HIGHER LEVEL MFA OFFICIALS.

WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT IO'S INSTRUCTIONS ALSO BE USED BY USUN WITH GOS MISSION. REACTION OF MFA OFFICIALS TO ISSUES DISCUSSED WITH THEM FOLLOWS. IN GENERAL, CHEOK INDICATED GOS'S INTENTION TO VOTE WITH ASEAN AND G-77 COUNTRIES, BUT TO EXERT MODERATING INFLUENCE WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

2. POLITICAL ISSUES.

A. MIDDLE EAST - THIS ISSUE WAS DISCUSSED BRIEFLY IN WELLS/PETREE MEETING WITH GOS AMBASSADOR TOMMY KOH. CHEOK AGREED WITH LAST TALKING POINT THAT NEW INITIATIVES SHOULD NOT BE RAISED AT UNGA PENDING OUTCOME OF EFFORTS UNDERWAY. ACTION REQUESTED: CHEOK ASKED WHETHER U.S. KNOWS OF ANY DRAFT RESOLUTIONS, PROBABLY SPONSORED BY EGYPT, ON ILLEGAL ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ON WEST BANK. PLEASE ADVISE. CHEOK SAID THAT GOS WOULD PROBABLY VOTE IN FAVOR OF ANY SUCH RESOLUTION.

B. CYPRUS - CHEOK REGARDED CYPRUS ISSUE AS ROUTINE MATTER OF LITTLE INTEREST TO SINGAPORE, BUT EXHIBITED A STRONG PRO-TURKISH BIAS.

C. SOUTHERN AFRICA ISSUES - AS IN TALKS WITH WELLS/PETREE, CHEOK SHOWED APPRECIATION FOR NEW U.S. ATTITUDES AND INITIATIVES. HE REITERATED VIEW THAT G-77 RESOLUTIONS MIGHT RAISE PROBLEMS FOR U.S. BECAUSE THEY WOULD CALL FOR APPROBATION OF ARMED STRUGGLE AND CONDEMN WESTERN ECONOMIC INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA. CHEOK RECOGNIZED DIFFICULTIES WITH ARMED STRUGGLE CONCEPT (UNDER WHAT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SINGAP 03840 030516Z

CIRCUMSTANCES IS IT JUSTIFIED? IN NORTHERN IRELAND?) BUT SAID GOS WOULD PROBABLY VOTE WITH G-77 ANYWAY. HE APPRECIATED U.S. WILLINGNESS TO EXPAND ENFORCEABLE SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA. HE TOOK OCCASION TO NOTE THAT SELF DETERMINATION WAS ONE PRINCIPLE ON WHICH GOS WILL TAKE STRONG AND IF NECESSARY INDEPENDENT POSITIONS AND MENTIONED GOS ABSTENTION ON EAST TIMOR QUESTION DESPITE HEAVY INDONESIAN PRESSURE.

D. DISARMAMENT - GOS RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE OF DISARMAMENT ITEMS BUT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO FOLLOW THEM CLOSELY; IT WILL SUPPORT SSOD EFFORTS BUT WILL PROBABLY NOT BECKME INVOLVED IN THEM. IT WILL PROBABLY VOTE IN FAVOR OF ANY NUF RESOLUTION. EMBOFF STRESSED INUTILITY OF NUF RESOLUTION, BUT CHEOK SAID GOS CONSIDERS IT RELATIVELY HARMLESS AND NOT A QUESTION ON WHICH IT IS WILLING TO BREAK RANKS WITH G-77. ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER, CHEOK APPRECIATED NEW U.S. POLICY AND HOPED NO PRECIPITATE RESOLUTIONS ARISE IN 32ND UNGA.

E. PUERTO RICO - CHEOK FULLY ACCEPTED U.S. POSITION ON PUERTO RICO AND THOUGHT THAT IMPROVED U.S.-CUBAN RELATIONS MIGHT AVERT RAISING ISSUE IN THIS UNGA.

COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES GOS COULD BE PERSUADED TO

ABSTAIN ON ANY ANTI-U.S. RESOLUTION. SUGGEST APPROACH

TNV AMBASSADOR KOH.

F. GUAM - GOS WILL ABSTAIN AGAIN ON ANY GUAM RESOLUTION;
CHEOK THOUGHT "EVEN MALAYSIA" AMONG ASEAN COUNTRIES
MIGHT DO THE SAME.

G. KOREA - NOT DISCUSSED.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS.

A. HIGH COMMISSIONER - DISCUSSED AT LENGTH DURING WELLS/
PETREE VISIT, AT WHICH CHEOK DESCRIBED PROPOSAL FOR
HIGH COMMISSIONER AS "DEAD DUCK".

B. DECADE AGAINST RACISM - GOS ABSTAINED ON RESOLUTION
3379, UNDERSTANDS U.S. PROBLEMS WITH ZIONISM-RACISM
QUESTION, BUT WILL SUPPORT A UNGA RESOLUTION SIMILAR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SINGAP 03840 030516Z

TO THOSE ADOPTED AT SPRING ECOSOC.

C. TORTURE - GOS WILL SUPPORT A REASONABLE PLAN TO DEAL
WITH PROBLEM OF TORTURE.

4. UN MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

A. UN RESTRUCTURING - DISCUSSED AT LENGTH DURING
WELLS/PETREE VISIT; NOT RAISED AGAIN.

B. RESTRAINT ON 1978-1979 BIENNIAL PROGRAM BUDGET -
CHEOK RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE OF HOLDING DOWN UN
BUDGETS (SEE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH) BUT SAID GOS
MULTILATERAL STAFF SIMPLY CANNOT SPEND TIME NECESSARY
TO ASSIST IN CONTROLLING UN AGENCY EXPENDITURES.

C. UN SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS - CHEOK RAISED QUESTION AGAIN
(DISCUSSED WITH WELLS/PETREE) OF 100 PERCENT INCREASE
IN SINGAPORE'S UN ASSESSMENT. GOS APPEALED TO
COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS AND QUESTION WAS CONSIDERED
AT AUGUST 19 MEETING. GOS HAS FOR FIRST TIME DELAYED
PAYMENT OF ITS ASSESSMENT PENDING DECISION ON APPEAL.

D. UN CONFERENCES AND E. UN SALARIES - THESE QUESTIONS
WERE BRIEFLY TOUCHED ON BY AMBASSADOR WELLS;
THEY FALL INTO CATEGORY OF SUBJECTS GOS CANNOT
ADEQUATELY COVER.

5. ECONOMIC ISSUES.

A. NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE - DISCUSSED WITH WELLS/PETREE.

B. OMNIBUS - NOT DISCUSSED.

C. NEW INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - GOS WOULD
PROBABLY VOTE WITH G-77 IN FAVOR OF OPEN-ENDED PRE-
PARATORY COMMITTEE.

D. BASIC HUMAN NEEDS - NOT DISCUSSED.

E. KEY NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES - NOT DISCUSSED.

HOLDRIDGE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SINGAP03840
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770320-0947
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770999/aaaadfid.tel
Line Count: 167
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6a44fb4d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 205678, 77 SINGAPORE 3149
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1391064
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, SN, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6a44fb4d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009